

CLAIMS

- [001] Bellows-type collar for washing machines comprising a machine housing (1), a lye container (2) that is arranged therein, a cantilevered drum (3) which is rotatably disposed in the lye container (2), and a frontal loading opening, wherein the bellows-type collar (20) comprises an inner (21), a central (22) and an outer collar ring (23) and is sealingly fixed to both the machine housing (1) and the lye container (2) in the area of the loading opening, and the inner collar ring (21) is visible through a closure of the loading opening, characterised in that an annular stiffening element is assigned to the visible inner collar ring (21), which stiffening element reduces any spreading of deformation forces from the central and outer collar ring (22 and 23) on to the inner collar ring (21).
- [002] The bellows-type collar according to claim 1, characterised in that the stiffening element consists of a thickened area (28) of the bellows-type collar (20).
- [003] The bellows-type collar according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that a flexible metal ring is vulcanised on or in the bellows-type collar (20).
- [004] The bellows-type collar according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the stiffening element (28) is disposed in the area of the inner collar ring (21) which lies closest to the drum neck (13) of the drum (3).
- [005] The bellows-type collar according to any one of claims 1 to 4 and comprising a non-visible section (22, 23) of the bellows-type collar (20), characterised in that an articulated section (29) is disposed in the non-visible section (22, 23) which promotes deformation of the bellows-type collar (20) in said non-visible section (22, 23).
- [006] The bellows-type collar according to claim 5, characterised in that the articulated section is formed by a thinner-material area (29) between two thickened areas (28; 30) of the bellows-type collar (20).

[007] The bellows-type collar according to claim 6, characterised in that the articulated section (29) in the non-visible section (22, 23) of the bellows-type collar (20) directly adjoins the stiffening element (28).